

The West of the Prairie, 1970, oil on canvas, 152 x 183 cm, collection of the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa. The painting depicts a landscape of rolling hills and fields under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a small farm building is visible. The middle ground shows a wide, open field with a few scattered trees. The background features a range of hills under a bright sun.

the West of the Prairie, which was exhibited at the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts in 1970. It depicts a landscape of rolling hills and fields under a clear blue sky. The painting is a classic example of the "Prairie School" style, characterized by its emphasis on the vastness and beauty of the Canadian prairie. The artist uses a palette of earthy tones, such as browns, blues, and yellows, to create a sense of harmony with the natural environment. The composition is balanced, with the horizon line running across the middle of the painting. The foreground is dominated by a small farm building, while the middle ground features a wide, open field. In the background, a range of hills rises against a bright blue sky. The overall effect is one of tranquility and peace, capturing the essence of the Canadian prairie.

After the success of *The West of the Prairie*, McMichael turned his attention to the study of the Hudson River School. He began to paint scenes of the Adirondack Mountains, particularly the Lake George area. His work during this period includes *Lake George, Adirondacks* (1971), *Adirondack Morn* (1972), and *Adirondack Morn II* (1973). These paintings feature dense forests and rocky terrain, with a focus on the play of light and shadow. McMichael's interest in the Hudson River School is evident in his use of a more painterly technique, with visible brushstrokes and a focus on capturing the atmosphere and mood of the landscape.

In addition to his work in the Hudson River School, McMichael also explored other genres, such as still life and portraiture. He painted several portraits of his family members, including his wife, Helen, and their children. He also created a series of still life compositions featuring objects from his studio, such as vases, glasses, and books. These works demonstrate his versatility as an artist and his ability to adapt his style to different subjects.

Throughout his career, McMichael remained committed to his love of the natural world and the beauty of the Canadian landscape. He continued to paint until his death in 1995, leaving behind a legacy of works that celebrate the majesty and tranquility of the natural environment. His influence on Canadian art is still felt today, and he remains a beloved figure in the Canadian art world.

A collage of three historical photographs from Gibraltar. The top image shows two large naval guns mounted on a stone battery overlooking the sea. The middle image is a black and white photograph of a coastal fortification with a tower on a hill in the background. The bottom image is a black and white photograph of four men in military uniforms standing in front of a building.



French from their outposts. By daylight on September 12, the British had assaulted and carried Signal Hill. The guns there were trained on the French garrison in St. John and eight days later the French surrendered.

Amherst, who conducted the land operations in the re-capture of St. John's, described the strategic possibilities of "the most advantageous ground I ever saw, really, almost incredible" and immediate measures were taken to improve St. John's defences. A mast and yardarm were constructed for flag signalling, and chains were stretched across the harbour entrance to keep out enemy ships.

Although several wooden batteries were constructed to supplement the chains, they fell into disrepair almost immediately. And under the lash of fierce Atlantic storms the fortifications at St. John's deteriorated quickly. However, the British were unwilling to build stone fortifications or to pay for the upkeep of wooden ones.

From the mid-1790's to the War of 1812 when it seemed the Western Atlantic might become the scene of major naval engagement between British, French, and Americans, the British focussed their attention on the protection of both the city and harbour of St. John's. Accordingly, several batteries, a blockhouse, barracks, storehouse, powder magazine, and a 100-foot high, 10-foot thick stone wall were constructed on Signal Hill, earning for it the nickname Fort Impregnable. But the Royal Engineers decided Hill needed further strengthening. In 1809 Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. Durnford submitted plans for a citadel to occupy the whole top of Signal Hill. Had his plan been followed, the ridge would have been strengthened and the harbour entrance securely protected.

After the Napoleonic Wars Britain was so confident of her mastery of the seas that Newfoundland's defences were neglected. By the 1850's, the fortifications on Signal Hill were allowed to fall into decay and the heights assumed their original function of a signalling platform.

the 1898 quad-centenary of Cabot's visit to Newfoundland's shores, one section of the tower was used as a visual signal station. Until 1958 it alerted port authorities, merchants and ship owners to the arrival and departure of vessels. The tower displayed the name and house flag of the approaching vessel, informing owners or agents of

In 1901, Guglielmo Marconi selected Signal Hill for an experiment to demonstrate that signals could be transmitted by electromagnetic waves. On December 12 the letter "S" was transmitted by Morse code from Poldhu, Cornwall in England. Using a kite to hold an aerial aloft, Marconi

received the three faint dots on his set to make communications history. The signal had travelled 1,700 miles.

Newfoundland became a vital link in North Atlantic communications during the Second World War. One of the main con-

voy routes supplying Britain with food and munitions ran between St. John's and Londonderry, Northern Ireland. The Newfoundland Escort Force accompanied convoys to Londonderry where crews would rest for a day before returning to St. John's harbour. Allied planes and ships in Newfoundland also played a significant role in protecting the North American continent from the enemy, and then wresting control of the Atlantic from him. Newfoundland-based bombers kept a constant watch for German surface craft and submarine pack-train convoys in the North Atlantic.

In 1949, Newfoundland ceased to be a British colony and became Canada's tenth province. Signal Hill was declared a National Historic Site in 1958.

What to look for

1. Visitors' Reception and Interpretation Centre features a sight and sound tour of the history of Newfoundland. From here foot paths lead to Giblett Hill, Queen's Battery, Cabot Tower and Ladies Lookout.

2. Giblett Hill. The British built Crow's Nest Battery here in 1698. The hill was named after the gibbet placed there in 1750 by the English. Victims of the gibbet were

petty theft could lead to execution under the laws of the 18th century.

3. Queen's Battery, commanding entrance to the Narrows, can be reached on foot or by car. The battery was built in 1796, but the present mountings probably date from the 1860's. Near the battery are the excavated ruins of British powder magazines, two barracks, latrine, ash pit and stockade wall.
4. Chain Rock, across from Queen's Battery.

4. **Chain Rock**, seen from Queen's Battery where a chain and log boom was stretched across the Narrows to keep out enemy ships in the early 1700's. A gun battery was placed on the rock in the 1670's to repel Dutch pirates. A gun emplacement used during both world wars remains.
5. **Cabot Tower**, built in 1897-9 to commemorate John Cabot's discovery of Newfoundland and Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The building, about 30 feet square with an octagonal 50-foot tower, houses a

graphic exhibit of early signalling devices. On the deck roof of the building is a signal mast and crossarm of the type used to announce the approach of shipping.

- British Admiralty records of the early 1800's refer to the *daily noon firing* of a gun from a blockhouse on Signal Hill. St. John's residents still keep time from the sight and sound of the charge ignited every noon.
- Canadian Marconi Monument*, dedicated by the Canadian Marconi Company to the

8. Ross' Valley. The faint outline of a small-

pox hospital, which burned in 1911, can be seen at Ross' Valley from the Cabot Tower parking lot.
9. Ladies Lookout, named in 1702, is 525 feet above sea level. Along the path to Ladies Lookout are the excavated ruins of

a canteen, ale storage hut, latrine and ash pit, part of the fortifications built by the British.

10. *George's Pond*, spring fed and 70 to 80 feet deep at the center, was first used as a water supply by the city of St. John's in the early 1800's. Today it is only an auxiliary supply.





National Historic Parks & Sites

- 1 Dawson City, (Yukon Territory) Centre of the Klondike Gold Rush. Palace Grand Theatre and riverboat S.S. Klondike preserved as national historic site.
- 2 Fort Ross Hill, (British Columbia) Nineteenth century British coastal fortification with historic Fisgard Lighthouse nearby.
- 3 Vancouver, (British Columbia) The schooner St. Roch, first vessel to navigate the Northwest Passage from West to East; built in 1928 for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, now in service, exhibited at the Vancouver Maritime Museum.
- 4 Fort Langley, (British Columbia) A partial reconstruction of a palisaded Hudson's Bay Company post of 1805.
- 5 Fort Battleford, (Saskatchewan) North West Mounted Police post built in 1874 in the territory of the Cree Indians. Original buildings house interesting exhibits on the history and are surrounded by a log stockade.
- 6 Battleford Factory, (Saskatchewan) Headquarters of the Metis during the North West Rebellion of 1885 at Duck Lake.
- 7 Fort Prince of Wales, (Manitoba) The most northerly fortress on the North American continent built by the French in 1731-1733. Opposite Churchill.
- 8 Lower Fort Garry, (Manitoba) Stone fort built by the Hudson's Bay Company between 1811-1829. Located on west bank of Red River about 20 miles north of Winnipeg.
- 9 Fort Morden, (Ontario) At Amherstburg, museum displays the remains of defence post first built in 1791-1799, destroyed by the Americans, 1813, rebuilt 1819-1822.
- 10 Woodside, (Ontario) Kitchener, the boyhood home of William Lyon Mackenzie King, fourth prime minister of Canada.
- 11 Niagara-Hamilton, (Ontario) At Niagara-on-the-Lake, built 1791-1799, contains original stone walls on site of earlier naval compound built 1775-1776, hence the traditional name "Navy Hall".
- 12 Fort George, (Ontario) At Niagara-on-the-Lake, main fortification built 1797-1801, reconstructed 1927-1931 by the National Parks Commission; declared National Historic Park, 1969.
- 13 Queenston Heights, (Ontario) Site of major American invasion, critical battle and American defeat during War of 1812. Monument to Major-General Isaac Brock killed during the repulse.
- 14 Bent's House, (Ontario) At Kingston, home of the first prime minister of Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald.
- 15 Fort Wellington, (Ontario) At Prescott, defence post built between 1812-1814, with blockhouse dating from 1803, and museum.
- 16 Coteau-du-Lac, (Quebec) Late 18th-century British military post and site of first canal on the St. Lawrence River at Coteau-du-Lac.
- 17 Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Birthplace, (Quebec) House at St. Lin des Laurentides where Canada's seventh prime minister was probably born.
- 18 Fort Chambly, (Quebec) Built by the French in 1700-1711. It was destroyed by fire and rebuilt between 1709-1711. It was occupied by the Americans and British at Chambly, about 19 miles southeast of Montreal.
- 19 Fort Lennox, (Quebec) On Ile aux Noix in the Richelieu River near St. Jean, an island fort, first built by the French in 1759, rebuilt by the British, 1776-1780. The present fort dates from 1819-1829.
- 20 St. Andrews Blockhouse, (New Brunswick) At St. Andrews, only remaining defence work of a series of blockhouses and batteries built by colonial authorities.
- 21 Carleton Martello Tower, (New Brunswick) At Saint John, built during War of 1812. With the addition of a concrete superstructure, Tower became part of city's war defences; fire control centre during World War II.
- 22 Fort Beauséjour, (New Brunswick) Site of major French fort in area, 1756-1758, captured by the British in 1758, defended against the Americans in 1776. Near Sackville.
- 23 Fort Gaspareaux, (New Brunswick) Near Port Elgin on Isle de Sevre, square fortification with blockhouse at each corner. Used to defend Acadia (New Brunswick), built by British in 1756. Remains of parade square and ditch may be seen.
- 24 Port Royal, (Nova Scotia) Restoration of "Habitation" or first fort built in 1605 by Champlain, DeMonts and Poupart.
- 25 Fort Anne, (Nova Scotia) At Annapolis Royal, was first stone fortification of Port Royal by the French, 1695-1703, and destroyed by the British, 1710-1750. The museum building is a reconstruction of the Officer's Quarters built in 1797.

